



A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 41<sup>st</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
(Including Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Encino, Malibu, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood, Oak Park, Pacific Palisades, Port Hueneme, South Oxnard, Santa Monica, Tarzana, Topanga, Westlake Village, and Woodland Hills.)

**AUGUST 2003**

## **State Budget Adopted**

After a 24-hour marathon session, on July 29 the Governor signed the new 2003-04 state budget. I sent out a special budget edition of this e-mail newsletter at that time, and if you did not receive it and would like a copy, please let me know.

More detailed information on the budget has now been posted on the website of the nonpartisan state Legislative Analyst's Office at [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov).

## **Ahmanson Ranch Discussions Ongoing**



*Photo by Tom Gamache*

As reported in the July edition of this newsletter, discussions continue between Washington Mutual and the State of California for a possible sale of Ahmanson Ranch to the public.

It is the only parcel of land of its size of which I am aware anywhere in this region which remains pristine. It is home to endangered, threatened, listed, and rare species; has historic wildlife corridors that protect the gene pools for migrating deer, bobcats, mountain lions, badgers, and other large mammals; and is located at the top of a major watershed which would suffer severe degradation from the 45 million cubic yards of earth and 20,000 tons of airborne dust projected from the years of grading that would be required for this massive development.

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Earlier this year, I sent a personal letter to the Chairman of the Board of Washington Mutual, asking him to please consider the resource value of this property to the public. Washington Mutual seems to have heard the voice of the people, and entered into discussions for a possible sale. For months I have been quietly working with the relevant state agencies and the Governor's office to help make it happen. Many of the meetings were in my Sacramento office.

On **Monday night, August 25, at 7:30 p.m.**, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will hold a special meeting to discuss purchase of Ahmanson Ranch. I arranged for this meeting to be held at the Agoura/Calabasas Community Center, 27040 Malibu Hills Road just west of Lost Hills Road and the 101 freeway. I wanted the meeting to be close to the property itself and convenient for the public who have fought so long and so hard to save this property to be able to attend, to speak, and to hear what's next. The Conservancy Board, on which I sit, will be asked at this meeting to authorize staff to negotiate a purchase agreement for the entire Ahmanson Ranch. It will also be asked to approve an application for grant funds from the voter-approved restricted use Prop. 50 water and watershed bond act. (Prop. 50 funds are separate and apart from the state's general fund, and cannot be used to help solve the budget deficit.)

***Although I have always considered the Santa Monica Mountains  
to be the crown jewels of our parks, with the purchase of Ahmanson Ranch,  
the public will have acquired the Hope Diamond.***

Your letters, faxes or e-mails are still needed. Please write to Governor Davis today.

**Governor Gray Davis  
State Capitol**

**Sacramento, CA 95814**

**Fax: (916) 445-4633**

**E-mail: [governor@governor.ca.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov)**

*Please also send copies of your  
messages to the following:*

**Mary Nichols, Secretary**

**Resources Agency**

**1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311**

**Sacramento, CA 95814**

and

**Al Wright, Executive Director**

**Wildlife Conservation Board**

**1807 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103**

**Sacramento, CA 95814**

## **Spirit of the Mountains Photo Contest**

The National Park Service (NPS) invites you to submit your best photo of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to their ***Spirit of the Mountains Photo Contest***. It is open to amateur photographers only. Digital or film prints are acceptable. Categories are Plants, Animals, Scenic Shots, and Photographer's Choice. Prizes include publication in an NPS magazine, and all entries will be exhibited between September 20 and November 24 at the NPS Visitor Center in Thousand Oaks. Entries will be accepted through August 31, 2003.

Information and entry forms are available on the NPS website at [www.nps.gov/samo/photo](http://www.nps.gov/samo/photo).

## **AROUND THE DISTRICT:**

### **Agoura Hills –**

### **Historic Reyes Adobe Restoration**



*Photo courtesy of the City of Agoura Hills*

Agoura Hills is home to a historic adobe home built around 1820. It served as a way station for travelers and Spanish missionaries as they made their way up and down the El Camino Real (now Highway 101). The famous Mexican bandit, Joaquin Murrietta, is reported to have spent a night at the Reyes Adobe.

A citizen taskforce has been working on the restoration and landscaping plan for the adobe and barn over the past year. I was able to obtain a \$400,000 grant of restricted-use park bond money for the city to help complete this exciting project. The taskforce recently reported on what the restored site will look like, including the many ways in which the public will be able to enjoy this significant piece of California history.

(More)

## Malibu Creek State Park – Planning Moves Forward

State Parks just held the second of two Public Planning Workshops where members of the community were invited to present their ideas about the future of Malibu Creek State Park. Three alternatives were presented, each of which builds on the previous one.

- **Alternative A:** Would protect and enhance the existing park resources and habitat zone. A Cultural/Historical Zone would be created to protect prehistoric and other such sites.
- **Alternative B:** Would add expansion of the park's Core Habitat Zone and create a new natural preserve along Malibu Creek where future development would be restricted and recreational uses limited.
- **Alternative C:** Would further add expansion of the Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve, and restore and enhance the valley oak/woodland savannah and riparian corridor. It is the Alternative that I would like to see adopted.

Once the preferred Alternative is selected, it will be refined and presented in a draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report. These documents will then be circulated for further public review and comment.

My office is closely involved in this planning process. If you would like to know more about Malibu Creek State Park, or any others in California's beautiful state park system, you can visit the State Parks website at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

## Malibu – Corral Canyon Dedication

I joined Malibu Mayor Ken Kearsley at a new trailhead dedication earlier this month at Corral Canyon. This project of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy created a 2.5 mile loop trail off Pacific Coast Highway. It also includes picnic tables and a well-landscaped parking area. The new trail will connect hikers to the Coastal Slope Trail. Both Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and County Park Bond Act money were instrumental in making this project happen.

## Oak Park – Live “On the Edge?”

... of the urban/wildlife interface, that is? “On the Edge” is an innovative collaboration of existing organizations and agencies with the goal of offering ways to reduce human/wildlife conflicts.

Participants include the California Wildlife Center, which rehabilitates and releases sick, orphaned or injured wildlife; Mountains Restoration Trust, which acquires habitat and helps preserve healthy natural wilderness environments; Mountain Lion Foundation; South Coast Wildlands Project; The Nature of Wildworks; and a number of public agencies that want to help people safely enjoy living next to wilderness while still protecting the wildlife and wilderness character.

I am pleased to be joining “On the Edge” at a free “**Kids and Wildlife**” program coming up in Oak Park next month. This is a wonderful program for children, and will include rescued animals that for various reasons cannot be released back into the wild and are now part of wildlife education.

**Date:** Saturday, September 20  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Oak Canyon Community Park amphitheater  
5600 Hollytree Drive, Oak Park

Since space is limited, RSVP to the Mountains Restoration Trust office:  
**(818) 591-1701, ext. 188.**



## **Oxnard – Ormond Beach Wetlands Study**

On August 14, the State Coastal Conservancy board approved disbursement of funds to retain a consultant to prepare a wetland restoration feasibility study for Ormond Beach. This is an exciting and important project with enormous environmental, resource, educational, and economic benefits to the region. I sent a letter to the Coastal Conservancy in strong support.

The Conservancy acquired the first 265 acres last year from Southern California Edison, which is an excellent start on the minimum of 750 acres needed to produce a healthy, self-sustaining and fully-functioning wetland. It is important to maintain that momentum, and the feasibility study will now begin the actual planning process.

## **Oxnard – Tour of BMW facility**

I had the opportunity this month to tour BMW of North America's state-of-the-art test facility in Oxnard. Werner Lehner, General Manager of Vehicle and Systems Testing USA was my host. This facility is used to test and engineer BMWs for the North American market that meet the California and USEPA emission guidelines. I wanted to familiarize myself with the efforts by BMW with regard to vehicle emissions.

BMW's are shipped through the Port of Hueneme, and the company has a distribution facility and three year old state-of-the-art engineering and emissions center near by. BMW is working closely with CalEPA to meet California's vehicle air emission standards



## **Oxnard – Thurgood Marshall Elementary School Opens**

As a former teacher, I enjoyed attending the opening on Saturday, July 26, of the innovative and beautiful new Thurgood Marshall Elementary School in Oxnard. Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Chuck Weiss joined me on the tour of the campus, along with Oxnard Elementary School District Superintendent Richard Duarte, Oxnard Mayor Manny Lopez, Ventura County Supervisor John Flynn, and Principal Ernie Morrison. Over 300 people were in attendance.

The new K-6 school is now home to 530 students and teachers in 24 regular classrooms with three additional special education classes. Softball and soccer fields should be ready by the first of the year.

Thurgood Marshall will be a wonderful inspiration to these children as someone who overcame the circumstances and challenges of his life and became the first African-American justice of the United States Supreme Court. His quotations line the school walls. Congratulations to the Oxnard Elementary School District and to the lucky students who will attend this new school.

## **Pt. Hueneme – Car Seat Inspections**

On Saturday, August 2, I was pleased to co-sponsor with State Farm Insurance free inspections of child safety seats. State law now requires a child to be secured in a child passenger restraint system until they are at least six years of age or weigh at least 60 pounds. I was also concerned about the normal two-month waiting list for inspections by trained inspectors when many parents are not fully informed on the proper way to install car seats. It was very interesting to watch the inspections being done and to see how much time – up to a half hour each – was spent on the inspection and talking with the parents.

My thanks to the staff and trained technicians of the Ventura County SAFE KIDS Coalition who did the inspections, and also to the many people from State Farm Insurance, Port Hueneme Police Department, and the CHP who devoted so many hours on a Saturday to helping with this event. And thanks to Pt. Hueneme Mayor Jon Sharkey and Councilmember Tony Volante, both of whom stopped by to say hello.

## **Santa Monica – PCH Taskforce**

The PCH Taskforce was formed several years ago by State Senator Sheila Kuehl as a way to share information and coordinate the activities of the multiple agencies and other entities that have jurisdiction over Pacific Coast Highway. These include Caltrans; the cities of L.A., Santa Monica and Malibu; the Pacific Palisades Town Council; county and city fire, police and sheriffs; and others. A primary focus of the taskforce is to make sure that highway and traffic safety planning, and particularly responses to emergency situations, are done on a multi-jurisdictional basis to maximize resources and to avoid needless duplications of effort.

The Taskforce met this week, and I attended with staff to hear a very interesting and informative overview of safety projects that are in place, underway, and/or in the planning stages for this very heavily traveled state highway. Speed and safety along PCH are very high priorities at my office. I will be continuing to work with the City of Malibu and other relevant agencies next year on my bill AB 1009, which would establish double-line zones along a stretch of PCH in the City of Malibu.

## **Santa Monica – Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Formed**

Created by legislation I co-authored with Senator Sheila Kuehl last year, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission is now up and running. The Santa Monica Bay is one of the environmental and recreational treasures in the area, but has needed a champion like the new SMBRC. Congratulations to L.A. City Councilman Jack Weiss, the Commission's first duly-elected chair.

I joined Senator Kuehl, Malibu Mayor Ken Kearsley, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom and others on July 31 at the Santa Monica Pier to celebrate the new commission. The Bay's water quality, and the residents and tourists who come to enjoy the bay and support our multi-million-dollar coastal economy has a new protector, and will help insure that the parks and water bonds passed by the voters are used effectively toward restoration of a healthy sustainable Santa Monica Bay.

If passed, my bill, AB 866, will clarify that the \$20 million from the voter-passed Prop. 50 for watershed and water quality projects furthers the objectives of the restoration plan for the Santa Monica Bay.

Support letters for this bill should be sent to:

**Governor Gray Davis  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**Art Baggett, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

## **Tarzana – Anti-Defamation League Meeting**

I joined State Senators Sheila Kuehl, Richard Alarcon, and Jack Scott, along with Assemblymember Lloyd Levine, at a meeting of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The intent was to provide a legislative update to members of the San Fernando Valley ADL. Topics included education, health care, workers compensation reform, term limits, the recall, and specific bills authored by us. The goals of the highly-respected ADL are to eliminate discrimination and intolerance against any races, religions, or sexual orientation.

Related to this, on July 16, Attorney General Bill Lockyer released his annual report on Hate Crimes in California for the year 2002. He summarized the report as follows:

"The positive news about this year's report is that the 1,659 hate crime events reported in 2002 represented a 26.6% decrease from 2001.

Although the number of hate crimes decreased this year, we Californians must not tolerate any of these crimes. Hate crimes impact not only their victims, but also spread concern throughout entire communities. While I hope last year's decrease signals a growing

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appreciation and tolerance for California's diverse population, cultures, lifestyles and faiths, we must increase our efforts to curtail these acts. Let's continue to treat each other with the dignity and respect we all deserve."

You can access a copy of the full report on the Attorney General's website at <http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/publications/hatecrimes/hc02/preface.pdf>

## Woodland Hills – New Library Opens

On Thursday, August 14, the newly renovated Woodland Hills library reopened, and what a beautiful job they did. The new library is twice the size of the old one. The design is wonderfully light and airy, using wood and dramatic large windows. Several hundred library lovers turned out for the grand opening. In addition to city library staff, L.A. Councilmember Dennis Zine and Laura Plotkin representing Senator Kuehl were also there to celebrate the occasion.

An El Camino Real mission bell was presented by a local women's group. A tree was dedicated to the memory of Gordon Murley's wife, long-time Woodland Hills community member. And to add to their collection, I presented a copy of "California Blue Book," an encyclopedia of California's history from 1850-2000; and a copy of "The Adventures of Capitol Kitty," written and autographed by California's First Lady, Sharon Davis. "Capitol Kitty" is based on a real cat that lives right outside her office window in the State Capitol.

## Farmer's Markets

Continuing my third year of district outreach, I have held a number of recent Mobile District Offices at Farmer's Markets. These are important opportunities for me to meet and listen to constituents so that I can stay in touch with what's important to the people I represent. I share the belief of former U.S. Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill that "all politics is local." I continue to learn a great deal from going out into the communities and bringing my staff and information to the residents.

### Number One Issue on People's Minds at these Events?

#### **Calabasas:**

Saving Ahmanson Ranch from development

#### **Channel Islands Marina:**

The marina lease agreements and their effects on boat owners and the local community and businesses.

#### **Malibu:**

The water treatment facility on the Chili Cookoff site, which is a ballot measure for Malibu voters this November.

I enjoy these Mobile District Offices very much, and look forward to the next ones, which I hope to have in the San Fernando Valley, Santa Monica, and Pacific Palisades.

## Report Smog-belching Vehicles

There **IS** something you can do when you see a car driving down the highway spewing out noxious smoke and polluting our air. Los Angeles and Ventura County both have toll-free numbers operated by their Air Pollution Control Districts.

You can anonymously report the license numbers of such cars for follow-up by the agencies.



**L.A. County:**  
**800-CUT-SMOG (288-7664)**

**Ventura County:**  
**800-559-SMOG (7664)**

## **“No Call” List Phone Number Changes**

The “do-not-call” legislation that went into effect at the beginning of this year has proved to be hugely popular. For more information on how you can get onto this list that stops most unsolicited telemarketing calls, either call their NEW toll-free number -- **(888) 382-1222** -- or visit the Attorney General’s website at [www.ag.ca.gov](http://www.ag.ca.gov).

## **Homeowner and Renter Assistance**

Homeowner and/or Renter Assistance is a once-a-year payment from the State of California based on the property taxes assessed and paid on your home if you are an owner, or indirectly by you in your rent if you are a tenant. You are eligible if you are **62 years of age or older, blind, or disabled** and had a total household income in 2002 of **\$37,676 or less**. 2003 informational booklets, including forms, are available by mail on request through my district office.

The FTB and California Controller’s Office also provides free assistance to qualified individuals to help prepare their homeowner or renter assistance (HRA) claims. A list of locations of HRA service sites can be found on the FTB website at [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov). It is updated weekly.

## **Assemblymember Pavley’s Committee Assignments**

Appropriations Committee  
Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee  
Budget Committee  
Education Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Select Committee on Title IX  
Select Committee on California Ports  
Select Committee on Sustainability  
Chair, Select Committee on Air and Water Quality  
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Resources  
Legislative Advisory Committee – Wildlife Conservation Board  
Legislative Advisory Committee – California Coastal Conservancy  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

### **HOW TO REACH ME:**

#### **District Office:**

6355 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Suite 205  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
Phones: (818) 596-4141 • (805) 644-4141 • (310) 395-3414  
Fax: (818) 596-4150

#### **Capitol Office:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001  
Phone: (916) 319-2041  
Fax: (916) 319-2141

**E-mail: [assemblymember.pavley@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.pavley@assembly.ca.gov)**

Or visit my website at [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)

If you know of anyone who you think would like to receive these newsletters, please e-mail their name, mailing address and e-mail address, and I’ll be happy to add them to my list.

